

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and rejected in this application.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,244,401 (Russell et al.), Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that claims 5 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Russell et al. disclose a partition panel 3 (Fig. 1) which houses therein an associated branch powerway 5 to create a branch circuit and feeder harness 8 a power jumper 10 which interconnects feeder harness 8 with one of the branch powerways 5 (column 2, lines 59-67). Two horizontally extending plates or trays 29 and 30 are mounted on panel legs 24 and 25 in a vertically stacked relationship, and serve to in part define branch raceway 4 and feeder raceway 7 (column 3, lines 24-28). Connector 87 on jumper harness 86 is attached to one of the connectors 56-59 on the power terminal 56 of the associated branch powerway 5 (column 6, lines 19-22). Upper tray 29 of panel base 19 includes a cutout 44 through one side edge thereof, so as to form a vertical passageway between branch raceway 4 and feeder raceway 7 for harness 86 (column 3, lines 57-60).

In contrast, claim 5 recites in part:

at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding said electrical receptacle

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. discloses a partition panel that houses an associated branch power way. The upper tray of the panel base includes a cutout through one side edge thereof so as to form a vertical passageway between a branch raceway and a feeder raceway for the passage of a harness. The cutout of Russell et al. is for the passing of a harness through the cutout and the cutout itself

does not in any way surround an electrical receptacle. In contrast, Applicant's invention has the electrical receptacle at least partially surrounded by the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket additionally has an at least one attachment connected to the modular wall panel and at least one channel. The attachment element has a hole and further includes a fastener extending through the hole and attached to the corresponding channel. Therefore, Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding the electrical receptacle, as recited in claim 5.

Advantageously, the present invention includes a receptacle mounting bracket that allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securement to the harness. As such field installation personnel can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles. Another advantage of the present invention is that the receptacle mounting bracket provides a positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds an electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to then maintain fit the connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 5 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10 recites in part:

at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding said electrical receptacle

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. discloses a partition panel that houses an associated branch power way. The upper tray of the panel base includes a cutout through one side edge thereof so as to form a

vertical passageway between a branch raceway and a feeder raceway for the passage of a harness. The cutout of Russell et al. is for the passing of a harness through the cutout and the cutout itself does not in any way surround an electrical receptacle. In contrast, Applicant's invention has the electrical receptacle at least partially surrounded by the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket additionally has an at least one attachment connected to the modular wall panel and at least one channel. The attachment element has a hole and further includes a fastener extending through the hole and attached to the corresponding channel. Therefore, Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding the electrical receptacle, as recited in claim 10.

Advantageously, the present invention includes a receptacle mounting bracket that allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securement to the harness. As such field installation personnel can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles. Another advantage of the present invention is that the receptacle mounting bracket provides a positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds an electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to then maintain fit the connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 10 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,562,469 (Nienhuis et al.) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,512 (Bullwinkle), Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that claims 1-4 and 6-11 are in condition for allowance.

Nienhuis et al. disclose an electrified wall panel system (Figs. 1, 2 and 13) including a power distribution server having floor receptacle module ports oriented in an H-shaped configuration in which a first receptacle port on a first side of the wall panel unit opens towards a first end of the wall panel unit, a second receptacle port on the first side of the wall panel unit opens toward a second end of the wall unit, a third receptacle port on a second side of the wall panel unit opens toward the first end of the wall panel unit and a fourth receptacle port on the second side of the wall panel unit opens toward the second end of the wall panel unit (Abstract). A receptacle 53 is clipped to a retaining device 60, as shown in Fig. 2.

Bullwinkle discloses a hard wiring race for office partitions having an electrical fixture, such as an outlet receptacle, mounted along a channel. The channel supports the electrical wiring terminated at the electrical fixture. The wiring path lead from the channel in one panel to an adjacent panel and a bridge channel element attaches to the weldment to extend the channel across a gap between adjacent panels (Abstract). Weldment 30 includes an elongated channel carrying one or more formed steel boxes 38 for mounting electrical duplex outlets 40 at outlet positions 42 corresponding with openings in cover panel plates 64 (column 4, lines 8-16).

In contrast, claim 1 recites in part:

at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding said electrical receptacle

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell et al., Nienhuis et al., Bullwinkle or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. discloses a partition panel that houses an associated branch power way. The upper tray of the panel base includes a cutout through one side edge thereof so as to form a vertical passageway between a branch raceway and a feeder raceway for the passage of a harness. The cutout of Russell et al. is for the passing of a harness through the cutout and the cutout itself

does not in any way house an electrical receptacle. Nienhuis et al. disclose an electrified wall panel system having channels and an electrical receptacle that is connected by a bracket to a connector. Bullwinkle discloses a hardwiring race for an office partition including duplex outlets mounted to steel boxes having cover plates surrounding receptacles. The receptacles of Bullwinkle are not supported by the cover plate even though they are surrounded by the cover plate. In contrast, Applicant's invention has the electrical receptacle at least partially surrounded by the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket additionally has an at least one attachment connected to the modular wall panel and at least one channel. The attachment element has a hole and further includes a fastener extending through the hole and attached to the corresponding channel. Therefore, Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding the electrical receptacle, as recited in claim 1.

Advantageously, the present invention includes a receptacle mounting bracket that allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securement to the harness. As such field installation personnel can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles. Another advantage of the present invention is that the receptacle mounting bracket provides a positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds an electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to then maintain fit the connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-4 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 6, recites in part:

at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding said electrical receptacle

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell et al., Nienhuis et al., Bullwinkle or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. discloses a partition panel that houses an associated branch power way. The upper tray of the panel base includes a cutout through one side edge thereof so as to form a vertical passageway between a branch raceway and a feeder raceway for the passage of a harness. The cutout of Russell et al. is for the passing of a harness through the cutout and the cutout itself does not in any way house an electrical receptacle. Nienhuis et al. disclose an electrified wall panel system having channels and an electrical receptacle that is connected by a bracket to a connector. Bullwinkle discloses a hardwiring race for an office partition including duplex outlets mounted to steel boxes having cover plates surrounding receptacles. The receptacles of Bullwinkle are not supported by the cover plate even though they are surrounded by the cover plate. In contrast, Applicant's invention has the electrical receptacle at least partially surrounded by the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket additionally has an at least one attachment connected to the modular wall panel and at least one channel. The attachment element has a hole and further includes a fastener extending through the hole and attached to the corresponding channel. Therefore, Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding the electrical receptacle, as recited in claim 6.

Advantageously, the present invention includes a receptacle mounting bracket that allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securement to the harness. As such field installation personnel can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles. Another advantage of the present invention is that the receptacle mounting bracket provides a positive support for the electrical

receptacle and holds an electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to then maintain fit the connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 6 and claims 7-9 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In still further contrast, claim 10, recites in part:

at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding said electrical receptacle

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell et al., Nienhuis et al., Bullwinkle or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. discloses a partition panel that houses an associated branch power way. The upper tray of the panel base includes a cutout through one side edge thereof so as to form a vertical passageway between a branch raceway and a feeder raceway for the passage of a harness. The cutout of Russell et al. is for the passing of a harness through the cutout and the cutout itself does not in any way house an electrical receptacle. Nienhuis et al. disclose an electrified wall panel system having channels and an electrical receptacle that is connected by a bracket to a connector. Bullwinkle discloses a hardwiring race for an office partition including duplex outlets mounted to steel boxes having cover plates surrounding receptacles. The receptacles of Bullwinkle are not supported by the cover plate even though they are surrounded by the cover plate. In contrast, Applicant's invention has the electrical receptacle at least partially surrounded by the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket additionally has an at least one attachment connected to the modular wall panel and at least one channel. The attachment element has a hole and further includes a fastener extending through the hole and attached to the corresponding channel. Therefore, Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, fail to disclose, teach or

suggest at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding the electrical receptacle, as recited in claim 10.

Advantageously, the present invention includes a receptacle mounting bracket that allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securement to the harness. As such field installation personnel can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles. Another advantage of the present invention is that the receptacle mounting bracket provides a positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds an electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to then maintain fit the connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 10 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In yet still further contrast, claim 11, recites in part:

at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding said electrical receptacle

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell et al., Nienhuis et al., Bullwinkle or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. discloses a partition panel that houses an associated branch power way. The upper tray of the panel base includes a cutout through one side edge thereof so as to form a vertical passageway between a branch raceway and a feeder raceway for the passage of a harness. The cutout of Russell et al. is for the passing of a harness through the cutout and the cutout itself does not in any way house an electrical receptacle. Nienhuis et al. disclose an electrified wall panel system having channels and an electrical receptacle that is connected by a bracket to a connector. Bullwinkle discloses a hardwiring race for an office partition including duplex outlets

mounted to steel boxes having cover plates surrounding receptacles. The receptacles of Bullwinkle are not supported by the cover plate even though they are surrounded by the cover plate. In contrast, Applicant's invention has the electrical receptacle at least partially surrounded by the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket additionally has an at least one attachment connected to the modular wall panel and at least one channel. The attachment element has a hole and further includes a fastener extending through the hole and attached to the corresponding channel. Therefore, Russell et al. or any of the other cited references, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding the electrical receptacle, as recited in claim 11.

Advantageously, the present invention includes a receptacle mounting bracket that allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securement to the harness. As such field installation personnel can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles. Another advantage of the present invention is that the receptacle mounting bracket provides a positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds an electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to then maintain fit the connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 11 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 19, 2006.

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